

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 30, 33, and 36, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and amend claims 31, 32, 34, 35, and 39-41. With claims 1-29, 37, and 38 having been previously canceled, claims 31, 32, 34, 35, 39-41 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action of February 9, 2006 ("Office Action"),¹ claims 30-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,889,194 ("*Kadaba*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,292 ("*Sutherland*"). The Examiner objected to claims 39-41 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that these claims were drawn to allowable subject matter. Applicants address the rejection and objection below.

Claims 39-41

The Examiner objected to claims 39-41 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all of the respective base and intervening claim features. Office Action, p. 4. Claims 39-41, as currently presented, are in independent form and include features of now canceled base claims 30, 33, and 36. Applicants submit that the applied references (*Kadaba* and *Sutherland*), taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element recited in independent claims 39-41. Applicants request withdrawal of the objection and the timely allowance of these pending claims.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether or not any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Section 103(a) rejection of claims 30-36

The § 103(a) rejection of claims 30, 33, and 36 is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims. Furthermore, the § 103(a) rejection of claims 31, 32, 34, and 35 should be withdrawn, at least because these claims depend respectively upon independent claims 39 and 40, which should be allowed for the reasons discussed above. Applicants thus request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection and the timely allowance of claims 31, 32, 34, and 35.

Conclusion


Applicants request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing, and the timely allowance of pending claims 31, 32, 34, 35, and 39-41.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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